

International Health Activities and Programs

The National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health (CoEs) were established in 1996 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health. Their mandate is to establish and evaluate a new model health care system that unites women's health research, medical training, clinical care, public health education, community outreach, and the promotion of women in academic medicine. Their goal is to improve the health status of diverse women across the life span.

This brochure highlights some of the CoEs' international health activities and programs.

CLINICAL SERVICES

◆ University of Illinois at Chicago

In October of 1992, an International Partnership Program was established between the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Medical Center and the Second State Medical Institute in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. This partnership has been supported primarily with funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Prior to 1996, the general areas of focus for this partnership were neonatal and perinatal medicine, hospital and clinic administration, nursing and medical education, general surgery and neurosurgery, and various medical specialties such as

orthopedics and anesthesiology. In 1996, women's health became a major focus. Dr. Richard Derman, who was then Head of UIC's Center for Women's Health, along with other UIC faculty conducted an assessment of feasibility for such a center in late 1996. This center is modeled after UIC's Center for Women's Health. In November, 1997, Dr. Derman led a UIC delegation that participated in opening ceremonies that included First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton and the President and First Lady of Uzbekistan.

Although part of a larger initiative, the Women's Wellness Center in Tashkent has been strongly influenced by UIC and the Center's key personnel have all received intensive training on location at UIC's Center for Women's Health. Further, faculty of UIC have made an additional follow-up visit since the opening of the Women's Wellness Center to assess progress toward meeting the objectives developed for it. The Center was found to be incorporating new approaches to working with adolescents and helping expand the availability of services to previously underserved women, that is, women experiencing problems related to menopause, aging, and abuse.

◆ **Indiana University School of Medicine**

The Indiana University School of Medicine has a longstanding collaboration with Moi University College of Health Sciences in Eldoret, Kenya, which includes exchange programs of faculty, residents, and medical students between both sites, as well as a full-time presence of IU faculty and trainees in Eldoret. Dr. Rose Fife is involved in research administration development in Eldoret and in projects related to educational outreach on HIV/AIDS to women and children. She is also involved in developing HIV clinics in Eldoret and its rural environs. Dr. Ann Zerr has

met with visiting Kenyan students and has discussed women's health and the CoE concept with them.

Approximately 20 nurses and nursing students from Thailand visited the CoE clinic and spent time with the Director of Women's Services at Wishard Health Services (CoE location) to discuss the implementation of a designated line of health services for women in a hospital setting (e.g., ob/gyn, breast care, menopausal and post-menopausal care, and endocrinology). They received brochures and other information about the Indiana University CoE.

◆ **Magee-Womans Hospital**

Magee's Family Health International and the University of Washington have developed a relationship where investigators at the sites have formed the HIV Prevention Trial Network Leadership Group which will oversee national and international clinical trial sites evaluating HIV prevention methods. Dr. Sharon Hillier is the co-principal investigator on the central laboratory that will support these efforts. She also serves on the Executive Committee for this Prevention Trial Network. It is anticipated that Dr. Hillier's laboratory will serve as a reference center to provide training for physicians and scientists in developing countries to study reproductive health. Visitors who receive training at Magee often benefit from exposure to activities within the CoE by learning about models of patient care delivery and research, and assessing which methods are relevant to their settings.

◆ **University of Michigan Health System**

The Middle Eastern Women's Health Initiative began in 1999 with a vision of providing comprehensive women's health

care services to the Middle Eastern/Arabic speaking population of the Detroit metropolitan area where over 250,000 individuals of Middle Eastern origin reside. This project has been developing under the leadership of Dr. Maya Hammoud, the CoE lead for the Culturally Competent Women's Health Care Initiative, who is fluent in the Arabic language and is committed to providing culturally competent health care to all patients. The committee working on this project is dedicated to its mission and to expanding it to all patients -men, women and children- of Middle Eastern origin. Ultimately, this program could be used as an example for development of an even more comprehensive International Health Program that would tailor services to International patients using the University of Michigan Health System.

◆ Tulane and Xavier Universities of Louisiana

The Tulane/Xavier CoE Clinical Services Core was established with the goal of facilitating or providing health care to women throughout their life span, and particularly to mobilize efforts to improve women's health status in greater New Orleans, Louisiana, and the South. One of the objectives for achieving this goal is the identification, development, and implementation of clinical recommendations based on local, national, and international treatment guidelines for various diseases.

The Tulane/Xavier CoE is reviewing and implementing relevant clinical care guidelines that are appropriate for the optimal care of women throughout their lives. These include screening and treatment guidelines on disease such as hypertension, breast cancer, heart disease, osteoporosis, AIDS, and obesity. Guidelines from a variety of national and international

organizations including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Center for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, American Cancer Society, American Health Association, American Diabetes Association, and the Osteoporosis Foundation are being used. Tulane/Xavier CoE patients and clinicians, as well as regional health providers, will be educated on the appropriate use of these guidelines for use in disease prevention and the treatment of women.

◆ University of Washington

In November 2002, the University of Washington CoE collaborated with the National Association of Women's Health to host the *Strategy, Synergy & Solutions* 15th Annual Executive Summit in Seattle. Drs. Emily Wong, Susan Reed, Marcia Killien, Mary Laya, and Marie-Annette Brown presented a session titled: Education & Synergy: Innovative Approaches to Balance the Needs of Diverse Communities. In their presentation, they highlighted the CoE model in relation to services for immigrant communities and discussed management issues pertaining to safety net care in underserved populations.

An evaluation of new referral patterns to complementary medicine providers on site at Harborview Medical Center (HMC) show a slow and steady rise in the use of these alternative services by patients from diverse backgrounds. Currently, acupuncture and massage are available in three of the CoE partnership clinics.

In 2000, the University of Washington CoE, in collaboration with the University of Washington Patient & Family Education Services, created fact sheets called Culture Clues for use with Albanian, Latino, Russian, and Vietnamese patients. These clues list communication tips that providers can use when caring for a

patient from one of these cultures. In 2001, a Korean clue was created and this year two additional (African-American and Chinese) clues have been completed. Providers can download the clues from the Health On-Line web site, which is maintained by Patient and Family Education Services (PFES), or through the University of Washington's Healthlinks web site.

◆ **University of Wisconsin, Madison**

The perinatal clinics at Meriter Hospital, the University of Wisconsin community partner, have designated clinical days for Spanish-speaking patients, to accommodate this large and growing fraction of our population.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

◆ **MCP Hahnemann University Doing Business as Drexel University College of Medicine**

The Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women accepts applications from Canadian, as well as US medical and dental schools. To date, ELAM has had five Fellows from three of Canada's 16 medical schools (Dalhousie University, University of Ottawa and the University of Toronto). One former Fellow is Dean of the Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine. Another Fellow, appointed Associate Dean, Professional Affairs, University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine, has developed an internal leadership program that brings together younger faculty members from the partner health care institutions and the other health sciences schools as well as the medical school. Faculty include ELAM Program faculty, advisors to the Prime Minister and experts in governance, both corporate and not-for-profit.

According to Ottawa's Dean, "competition for slots is now quite fierce and the impact is palpable." The ELAM Program curriculum served as the basis for the internal leadership institute. Numerous other ELAM Fellows are involved in a variety of international health care programs.

ELAM Co-director Page Morahan serves as Co-director of the Foundation for the Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) Institute. FAIMER is a nonprofit foundation of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). The FAIMER Institute brings to the Philadelphia area annually medical education faculty from developing countries to participate in the program focused on medical education and leadership skills. Several ELAM Fellows and alumnae serve on the FAIMER Institute Admissions Committee and one Fellow is on the ECFMG Board.

◆ **Harvard University**

Andrea Dunaif, M.D., former Director of the Harvard Medical School (HMS) CoE, was the co-organizer of an international conference titled Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS): Basic Biology and Clinical Intervention held September 17-20, 2000, in Raleigh, NC. PCOS is a reproductive and metabolic disorder that is prevalent among women across their life span. Through this conference, co-sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Institute of Environmental Health Science and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the NIH offices of Rare Diseases and Research on Women's Health, over 200 researchers from the United States, France, the Netherlands, Australia, and United Kingdom gathered to discuss the advancements in research and

clinical care in this field. Andrea Dunaif, M.D., presented a session titled, “Insulin Resistance in PCOS” and Caren Solomon, M.D., a member of the HMS CoE Research Committee, presented a session titled “Immediate and Long-term Health Consequences of PCOS.” Other HMS CoE affiliate participants included Anne Taylor, M.D, from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Morris White, Ph.D., Joslin Diabetes Center.

The International External Resident Rotation is administered by Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital OB/Gyn Residents Program. This rotation is elective and provides an opportunity to learn more about other populations. A modest stipend funds travel and living expenses incurred during the rotation. Upon completion of the rotation, residents present a summary of their experience to the OB/Gyn Department and are also invited to participate in other special educational and developmental forums. The following three individuals have participated to date, Rina Banerjee, M.D., Calcutta, India; Audrey Garrett, M.D., Capetown, Republic of South Africa; and Nawal Nour, M.D., Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

◆ **Indiana University School of Medicine**

The Indiana University School of Medicine CoE telemedicine activities encompasses a variety of distance learning initiatives, that are integral to the School’s operations and strategic planning. The Indiana Higher Education Telecommunications Systems (IHETS) education programs, which include diverse programming (e.g., international, interactive teleconference in health and medicine) that can be distributed to a variety of health care sites on the Indiana University-Purdue University

Indianapolis (IUPUI) campus, as well as 32 other hospitals and health care sites around the city and state.

◆ **Magee-Womens Hospital**

Seminars are held on site for the purpose of continuing education. These seminars lead to certification in the Lamaze International Childbirth Educator Program. They are attended by faculty and staff of Magee-Womens Hospital, the staff of the Pinnacle Health System in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, community physicians and health care providers, educators from Puerto Rico and Singapore, and others from the U.S.

◆ **University of Puerto Rico**

The First Puerto Rican Conference on Public Health was held April 10–12, 2002, at the Caribe Hilton Hotel. The Graduate School of Public Health of the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus presented the conference. Dr. Lourdes Soto, CoE Educational Co-Director, moderated a special session titled “Towards a New Communication Paradigm in Health: Academia’s Response.” Dr. Delia Camacho, CoE Center Director, moderated a special session titled “Domestic Violence: Everybody’s Responsibility.” A total of 772 health professionals attended the conference. The program included the following topics:

- New Public Health Conceptualization: Critical Evaluation
- Health Reforms
- Public Health Challenges

The 7th Annual Medical Symposium: Taking Care of Women’s Health, was held April 6, 2002, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. This activity, sponsored by the CoE in collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) OB/Gyn Department, was co-sponsored

by Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories. Approximately 700 physicians participated in the symposium.

The 8th Educational Forum on Health Sciences Licenses was held April 5, 2002, at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus' Faculty Club. The Medical School of the Medical Sciences Campus sponsored the program. The CoE Center Director, Dr. Delia Camacho, and the two CoE Education Co-Directors forum presentation topic was titled "Women's Health in the Medical Sciences Campus Curriculum: Advances in Six Years."

The 8th RCMI International Symposium on Health Disparities was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, December 8–11, 2002. The symposium showcased the excellence in biomedical and biobehavioral research at 18 minority institutions. The Research Centers at Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program is funded by the National Center for Research Resources at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Delia Camacho presented on "Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease in Hispanic Women in Puerto Rico." The symposium featured keynote addresses and plenary lectures by prominent researchers.

◆ Tulane and Xavier Universities of Louisiana

A new Dual Degree Program between Maternal and Child Health and International Health titled Global Reproductive Health is pending approval of the School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine Curriculum committee.

◆ University of Washington, Seattle

The University of Washington CoE has a number of ongoing conferences that address issues related to International Health for its faculty. Faculty are drawn from the Harborview Medical

Center, Veteran's Administration and University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC) sites for the Women's Health Journal club that meets monthly. The meetings provide a time for faculty to discuss current issues related to underserved women's health needs and opportunities for dissemination of literature. Women's Health Grand Rounds is an educational lecture series involving faculty from multiple disciplines including internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and advanced practice nursing, that often focuses on the health issues of international populations. In 2001, the University of Washington CoE convened and participated in the Cross-Cultural Communication Conference in collaboration with the University of Washington School of Nursing.

The University of Washington CoE plans to expand its professional educational conferences to formalize an annual offering of the University of Washington Women's Health Update Series continuing medical education (CME) seminars. Planning for this coming year's conference is currently underway. The CoE proposes to host a conference on the health of Asian and Pacific Islander Women.

Under the direction of Heidi Powell, the University of Washington CoE has created a powerful web-based tool for education of health professionals: The Women's Health Case-Based Modules. These modules were designed to accommodate both beginning level and advanced learners as they progress through the cases. Each case features an emphasis on a selected minority group that is disproportionately affected by the disease (e.g., Hispanic women and Diabetes) or who are currently receiving less than optimal care due to lack of knowledge or stigmatization (e.g., lesbians and cervical cancer screening).

Currently available cases cover the following topics/minority groups:

Topic	Group	Status
Breast Cancer	African American	Completed
Diabetes	Hispanic	Completed
Cervical Cancer	Southeast Asian Women	Completed
Lesbian Health	Lesbian/Bisexual Women	Completed
Emergency Contraception/Abortion	Teenage Women	Completed
Domestic Violence	All Women	Completed
Peri-menopause	All Women	In Progress
Menopause	All Women	In Progress
Hypertension	African American	In Progress
Alcohol Abuse	All Women	In Progress
Contraception	All Women	In Progress
Osteoporosis	All Women	Completed

◆ University of Wisconsin, Madison

Dr. Connie Kraus (Pharmacy, CoE Faculty) has developed a multicultural and women's health focused clinical teaching site in the Wingra Family Medical Clinic in Madison for family practice residents and pharmacy, physician assistant, and medical students in a culturally diverse clinic that includes African American, Hmong, Cambodian, and Hispanic patients.

RESEARCH

◆ University of Illinois at Chicago

Dr. Stacie Geller, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) CoE Center Director, is participating in "A Randomized Placebo-Controlled Trial of Oral Misoprostol for Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage at Four Primary Health Centers of the Belgaum District, Karnataka, India." The overall goal of this research is to conduct a prospective randomized double blind placebo controlled study among eligible women giving birth in selected sites in Belgaum District, Karnataka, India, to assess the prophylactic effectiveness of oral misoprostol administered in the third stage of labor to reduce the incidence of acute postpartum hemorrhage. Reduction in postpartum hemorrhage may reduce other adverse maternal outcomes such as the need for additional uterotonic agents, blood transfusion, surgical intervention or maternal death. This study is funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health to facilitate international collaboration to improve global conditions in maternal and child health.

The College of Nursing, a major partner in the University of Illinois at Chicago National Center of Excellence in Women's Health (CoE), seeks to provide opportunities for nurses worldwide to assume positions of leadership in education, practice, and research to ensure the participation of communities in accessible, affordable, acceptable, and essential health care. In addition to the facilitation of international students seeking degrees, the College provides special programs for nurses from outside the U.S. who may desire advanced study experiences but not degrees. Additionally, the College welcomes post-doctoral visiting scholars and plans individualized programs for them on request. The college's alumni abroad hold important positions of leadership in universities, government agencies,

ministries of health, and international health organizations. These programs are organized by Dr. Beverly McElmurry, co-chair of the Community Partnership Core of UIC's CoE.

In addition to working with international scholars, faculty provide health care consultation and initiate research programs through collaborative agreements with institutions from such countries as Malawi, Botswana, Korea, Japan, Thailand, Chile, and Brazil. The College's long-standing and continuing work in international health resulted in its designation in 1986 as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for International Nursing Development in Primary Health Care (PHC). Further, the College has been developing PHC demonstrations in Chicago and international sites for more than a decade, and is internationally recognized as a leader in this area of health care.

The College of Nursing administers the Minority International Research Training (MIRT) Program, (Beverly McElmurry, Principle Investigator) that provides support for nursing undergraduates, faculty, pre-doctoral, and post-doctoral trainees from minority groups to conduct research in an international setting. The UIC College of Nursing WHO Collaborating Center works with other WHO Nursing/Midwifery Centers in the U.S. to recruit talented minority nurses for research opportunities with investigators in other countries. This past year, ten students, one faculty mentor, and two PHC Postdocs representing the University of Illinois at Chicago, Case Western Reserve University, Northern Illinois University, and Howard University were in Thailand, Uganda, and Swaziland for eight to ten weeks each to participate in international research.

The College's Institutional Research Training Program in Primary Health Care (Beverly McElmurry, Program Director)

supports research training for six pre-doctoral and three post-doctoral trainees. Special emphasis is placed on research with vulnerable populations, health disparities models for the delivery of PHC services, and global perspectives in health care. Most trainees include some type of international experience in their program of study.

The College has begun Phase III of its collaborative agreement with the University of Malawi: Strengthening Research and Teaching in African Colleges of Nursing. This stage of the initiative calls for the development of an independent research center at the Kamuzu College of Nursing that is linked to UIC as an affiliate of the College's WHO Collaborating Center. Kamuzu College is a regional center in Malawi for advanced nursing education. Through collaboration with School of Public Health and College of Nursing investigators, a faculty investigator in Malawi was recently awarded an NIH grant for research capacity development.

Faculty in the Maternal and Child Health department continue to provide collaborative leadership in working with colleagues from international settings to provide safe motherhood through midwifery training. Other countries where the College has international initiatives include Brazil, Thailand and Chile with a focus on enhancing women's health through routine breast examination; and Korea and Japan with an emphasis on international leadership development.

The College has been at the forefront of research, health education and clinical initiatives to address the global HIV/AIDS crises. Examples of our faculty's work in Africa include the Swaziland Rural Health Initiative, a program for

HIV/AIDS prevention and home-based care training of rural health motivators in Swaziland. Funded by the Bristol Myers-Squibb “Secure the Future” initiative, the project works in close collaboration with the Cabrini Mission Foundation and the Swaziland Ministry of Health. Additionally, College faculty continue to work to advance peer education programs for HIV/AIDS risk reduction behaviors in Botswana, Swaziland, Malawi, and Burkina Faso.

The College’s AIDS International Research Training Program (AIRTP) builds long-term scientific capacities that help to address the AIDS epidemic in Chile, Indonesia and Malawi. The AIRTP program facilitates research training for both graduate degree and short-term trainees from these three countries and is a collaboration with the UIC School of Public Health, and key institutional participants: the University of Chile, the University of Malawi, and the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) in Indonesia. There are currently four Malawi graduate students and two graduate students from Chile supported for study at UIC by the AIRTP program.

◆ University of California, San Francisco

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded \$28 million to the University of California at San Francisco’s (UCSF) Women’s Global Health Imperative (WGHI) to test whether the diaphragm can prevent the transmission of HIV. The diaphragm will be the first physical barrier tested in a randomized, controlled trial for effectiveness in preventing the sexual transmission of HIV. The study will enroll 4,500 women at two sites in South Africa and one in Zimbabwe. WGHI is a global research program based at UCSF’s AIDS Research Institute and UCSF’s departments of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive

sciences. Scientists at WGHI conduct research and training related to HIV/AIDS, gender and reproductive health. This research is used to design and rapidly implement practical and effective prevention and treatment strategies for women at risk for or living with HIV.

◆ Harvard University

Initiated in 1994, the Study of Women’s Health Across the Nation (SWAN) is an NIH-funded longitudinal study designed to examine a wide variety of issues important to women’s health in mid-life, with a focus on ethnicity. Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), a partner of the Harvard University CoE, was selected as one of the seven centers across the United States to participate in this study. Each of the seven sites recruited 450 women from their surrounding geographic area. Half of the study population is Caucasian, while the other half is African-American, Chinese, Japanese, or Hispanic. As an observational study, SWAN is mainly questionnaire-based research, focusing on such issues as physical activity, non-traditional health care practices, medical use, hormone data, bone density, cardiovascular risk factors, mood, and sexual behavior.

◆ Magee-Women’s Hospital

Dr. Sharon Hillier was invited to join the Joint U.S.-Indo Working Group on Reproductive Health. This collaboration brings together experts in the area of women’s health, especially contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV prevention, and improved pregnancy outcomes to improve the research infrastructure on reproductive health in India. In this capacity, Dr. Sharon Hillier organized a workshop in New Delhi, India, from November 8-10, 2000, on the role of reproductive tract

infections in women and their effects on reproductive outcomes and HIV susceptibility. Dr. Richard Sweet, Chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Magee-Women's Hospital, joined Dr. Hillier in this effort. The concept being explored with this collaboration is the development of an international model of excellence for reproductive health research in India.

◆ University of Michigan Health System

Deidre S. Maccannon, M.D., CoE Research Director, is an investigator for the Raloxifene Use for the Heart (RUTH) study, a major international, long-term study of designer estrogen and health.

◆ University of Washington, Seattle

The Somali Breast Care Project was developed by Dr. Susan Reed, CoE Clinical Services Director, and Jenny Droz, a second-year medical student, to find out more about Somali women's needs. A baseline survey was performed, asking basic questions about breast screening and prevention, and knowledge of breast cancer treatment. There were three group educational sessions with clinical cultural interpreters from the House Calls Program. The women watched videos, had a tour of the mammographic suite and watched as the technician demonstrated the mammographic procedure on herself. The group discussed the importance of removing outer veils so that proper positioning and imaging could be obtained. The women admitted that they had been offended by this request in the past, but now that the importance was explained with open communications and respect, this would no longer be a barrier. Targeted educational programs for health care providers explaining breast cancer screening to these groups of women are

planned for 2003, as well as focus groups with other populations. Dr. Reed has developed a pilot project with the American Cancer Society regional representatives for the Ethiopian population with similar educational goals, modeled after the Somali Breast Care Project.

At the Yakima Valley Farmworker Clinic, one of the University of Washington CoE's community clinic partners, it has been recognized that the Latino farmworker population has a very high risk of gestational diabetes. In addition, a pilot survey had demonstrated a high rate of conversion among these women who had had gestational diabetes in pregnancy to adult onset diabetes. A chart review facilitated by Dr. Susan Reed analyzed the number of women diagnosed with gestational diabetes and rate of conversion to adult onset diabetes in combination with risk factors. Latinas with two or more pregnancies associated with gestational diabetes were at highest risk of Type 2 diabetes. Assessment of the existing early prevention programs for adult onset diabetes have been completed at the Yakima Valley Farm Worker's Clinic in collaboration with the CoE. Additionally, the CoE has offered to partner with Yakima Valley Farmworkers' Clinic to write a policy statement regarding risks of conversion to Type 2 diabetes after gestational diabetes in the Latina population.

Focus groups with key community informants from the Somali, Latino and Vietnamese communities were held in December of 2000 and organized by Dr. Susan Reed, the Clinical Services Director at the University of Washington CoE. The goal of the focus groups was to better understand primary health concerns of non-English speaking female patient populations seen in primary care clinics at a safety net health care facility. In

particular, patient knowledge, experiences and intentions concerning health prevention strategies, including screening and patient education, were explored in three separate focus groups with Somali, Latina, and Vietnamese women. This information was shared with staff at Harborview Medical Center and reported to community clinic partners in 2002.

◆ University of Wisconsin, Madison

Dr. Terry Young, CoE collaborator and research faculty on the National Institute on Aging (NIA), NIH, “Women’s Health and Aging: Research and Leadership Training Grant,” is studying sleep disordered breathing in Hmong women. The CoE facilitated the placement of Lai Thao, a Hmong undergraduate student interested in going to medical school, in Dr. Young’s research lab for the summer of 2000. Ms. Thao also serves on the University of Wisconsin CoE’s Advisory Committee. Dr. Terry Young is also effectively bridging linguistic and cultural obstacles by working with the Hmong graduate students.

Rachel Rodriguez, R.N., Ph.D., CoE Advisory Committee Member and Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, is currently funded from several sources, including the National Institute of Justice, to address issues of domestic violence among migrant workers. A Mexican-American herself, she has developed strong networks and relationships among migrant women, many of whom are not documented citizens and have unmet health care needs.

Mark Linzer, M.D. and Julia McMurray, M.D. of the University of Wisconsin CoE Evaluation Team have begun work on the following international collaborative projects: 1) Gender Differences in Physician Burnout in the U.S. and the

Netherlands with researchers in the Department of Medical Psychology at the University of Amsterdam and 2) Part-Time Physician Practice in the U.S. and the Netherlands: A Glimpse of the Future? with researchers at the Netherlands Primary Care Research Institute in Utrecht. These studies define a new horizon for understanding the participation of women and men physicians in the workplace and the adverse consequences of specific aspects of physician worklife in the U.S. The papers emanating from these projects are currently in the final phases of preparation for submission to the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

Dr. McMurray has also led a team of international researchers assessing women in the physician workforce. This four-country comparison (UK, Canada, Australia, and the U.S.) was presented at the 4th International Workforce Symposium in San Francisco, November 1999. Dr. McMurray presented her work in a breakout session at the 5th International Workforce Symposium in Sydney, Australia, November 2000.

Elizabeth Cox, M.D., a mentored clinical scientist at the CoE, is studying patient-doctor shared decision making; one of her mentors is a researcher in Wales.

LEADERSHIP

◆ University of California, San Francisco

The CoE co-sponsored a three-week international Family Planning Leadership Institute. The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Center for Reproductive Health Research and Policy and the Center for Health Leadership and Practice hosted

20 representatives from Central America for a three-week International Family Planning Leadership Institute in June/July 2002. The participants attended a three-week training in the U.S. to receive leadership skills as well as technical information on new family planning and reproductive health technologies. The first week of the training was in Santa Cruz on leadership; week two was in Berkeley on policy development; and week three was at UCSF on family planning. Applicants were selected to represent a range of areas and responsibilities including leaders committed to population and reproductive health issues, governmental leaders responsible for making policy or managing programs, political leaders, and regional or local officials committed to population and reproductive health in their communities.

◆ Magee-Womens Hospital

In 1992, the Board of Directors of Magee-Womens Hospital agreed to “globalize” the hospital’s mission through the launch of an international outreach program to the former Soviet Union called Magee Womancare International (MWI). Today, Magee Womancare International has flourished and expanded to offer educational programs and technical assistance to seven countries including Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Hungary, Estonia, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic. Funded primarily through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Information Agency, and the United Nations, Magee is proud to share knowledge of improved maternal and child health with countries in great need.

- Development of improved gynecologic and obstetric care models that can be easily and economically replicated throughout a health system.

- Creation of consumer and community health education programs for women and their families.
- Strengthening of talented health care professionals through training workshops in program management, financial planning, and leadership.
- Encouragement of the growth of the voluntary philanthropic sector as it pertains to women’s health.

Magee Womancare International is dedicated to the promotion of safe, modern, and dignified health care for women around the world. In pursuit of this objective, MWI works in close partnership with health care providers, government agencies, corporate sponsors, and consumers to develop working models for lasting change in the practice of gynecology and obstetrics.

With innovative management and comprehensive services, MWI has helped to establish more than 26 independent clinics throughout the former Soviet Union including the Russian Womancare Clinic Network funded by USAID and the Open Society Institute.

Through partnerships and training, MWI plays a leading role in the design and implementation of improved clinical care in obstetrics. More than 600 health care professionals from the former Soviet Union have attended training workshops and conferences presented by clinicians from Magee in maternal and child health. In 2000, the Savior’s-Magee Birth House in Moscow opened a jointly administered and staffed prenatal care clinic, birthing center, and teaching program.

MWI designs and administers field training programs and physician symposia in critical areas of women’s health including older women’s health, breast cancer, domestic violence,

adolescent health, and reproductive endocrinology. More than 2,000 health care professionals have attended Magee clinical updates.

Working under the direction of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees in Russia, Magee Womancare International provides family health care to refugees including psycho-social counseling, domestic violence awareness and cultural integration programs.

To ensure modern models of women's health care, Magee Womancare International provides home host training for foreign health care providers at Magee-Womens Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. With funding and placement from the World Health Organization, the United States Agency for International Development, and others, more than 300 foreign physicians and nurses have trained in-residence at Magee.

A belief in good health through good information is a driving force behind the work of Magee Womancare International. MWI and its Eastern European network of more than 26 women's health education centers offers programs in preventive health to more than 100,000 women and girls annually. These innovative non-profit centers, working in close collaboration with Magee, have also published and distributed over 25 original educational health brochures, three instructional videos on family planning, prepared childbirth, and adolescent health, and a non-profit management training curriculum.

Ongoing national efforts in the promotion of prepared childbirth classes resulted in the 1999 Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation declaration that the Magee prepared childbirth

curriculum national protocol be published and taught in continuing education programs for Russian physicians and nurses.

MWI childbirth and women's health education conferences are held annually with support from Lamaze International, the professional childbirth education association conferences have been held in Moscow, Russia; Suzdel, Russia; Smolensk, Russia; Budapest, Hungary; and Tallin, Estonia. The Assistant Director of the CoE, Michele Ondeck, and the Director of Education for the CoE, Connie Feiler, are education advisors for the International Training. The CoE works with health professionals from the Ukraine to prepare them to develop the role of community health educators. A group of these professionals, who will be involved in a train-the-trainer program, attended the March 2001 Lamaze Childbirth Educator Program offered at MWI with the University of Pittsburgh. In November 2002, the Lamaze Childbirth Educator Program offered a four-day seminar in Kramatorsk, Ukraine, for 49 health professionals from throughout the Ukraine. In a partnership with the Federation for Russian American Economic Cooperation (FRAEC), 19 health professionals from Sakhalin Island, Russia, participated in the Lamaze Childbirth Educator seminar held in Sakhalin in July 2002.

To foster community networking and personal growth in countries undergoing health care reform, Magee Womancare International encourages and supports the coordination of women's health festivals and events. In Moscow, an annual Festival of Women's Health is generously supported by corporate sponsors and private donors and has been attended by more than 3,000 women in its first five years.

Health care excellence depends on dedicated leadership. Magee Womancare International designs and implements training programs and workshops which have resulted in the participation of more than 500 health care providers and non-profit managers. New programs in Albania and Hungary are currently being developed.

MWI often serves as a sub-contractor in women's health training and has administered workshops for leading international development organizations such as the Academy for Education Development (AED), American International Health Alliance (AIHA), Management Science for Health (MSH), Eurasia Foundation, United Nations (UN), and the United States Information Agency (USIA).

Magee Womancare International offers multi-cultural healthcare management training in the following areas:

- Leadership development
- Non-profit management: administration, finance and human resources
- Organizational planning and financial management
- Fundraising for sustainability
- Continuous quality improvement (CQI)
- Women's health specialty marketing

◆ University of Wisconsin, Madison

The University of Wisconsin (UW) CoE has served as a placement site for minority high school students through

Dr. Gloria Hawkins' (CoE faculty) summer research minority high school student apprentice program. These students have broadened the reach of our kids and teens website by adding sections in Spanish and including information for Asian communities.

OUTREACH

◆ University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Davtyan gave the keynote address to "Reporting on Women's Health," a conference of the International Women's Media Foundation, Mangalia, Romania, June 1999. The title of his address was "The Role of the Media in Public Health Education."

International Integration and Linkages - International Visitors to the UCLA CoE:

- Mrs. Nava Barak and associates: President, "Friends of Rabin Medical Center" and current wife of the Prime Minister of Israel (2 visits). The CoE provided a list of patient education resources to be used to establish a women's health patient education center.
- Department Director, General, All-China Women's Federation delegation, China.
- Elizabeth Chatham and Lesley Dwyer: Royal Women's Hospital, Australia.
- Julie Cwikel: Director, "Center for Women's Health Studies and Promotion," Ben-Gurion University, Negev, Israel.

- Dr. E. J. Holzman, Gynecology and Obstetrics specialist, Israel.
- OB/GYN professionals delegation, Japan.
- Dr. Meena Kothari and associates “Miss-N-Mrs. Clinic, Women’s Health Initiative,” India.
- Shanghai Pharmacists delegation, China.
- Worldwide Ministries of Health, visit by 40 representative of 27 Ministries of Health and other health entities.

◆ University of California, San Francisco

Kojo Matsui and others from SeniorNet Japan visited the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health and met with Executive Director Dixie Horning and other leaders of the CoE. The representatives from SeniorNet Japan were collecting information and stories on how to develop women’s health centers in Japan using the UCSF CoE as a model.

◆ Tulane and Xavier Universities of Louisiana

The large number of minorities in New Orleans and the recent influx of new immigrants to the area contributed to the Tulane/Xavier CoE recent focus on Cultural Competency. A special Cultural Competency Taskforce was established to explore the health needs of several New Orleans’ subpopulations, including African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics, and Arab Americans. The initial project of this taskforce was to create specialized population portfolios for each of the communities, featuring demographics, health issues and unique practices and

needs of the women of these different cultures. The specialized portfolios are used to plan research and future health education programs that are culturally appropriate. This information will also be used to provide clinical practitioners with tools necessary to provide culturally competent health services.

◆ University of Washington, Seattle

A new patient resource center with educational materials targeted to minority women was started in collaboration with the CoE at the Harborview Medical Center in September 1999. Utilization of the center by minority women has increased ten-fold since it opened. Increase in utilization patterns was concomitant with a new program with interpreter services. At the completion of each visit, the patient is escorted to the patient resource center to obtain educational materials on a specific topic. The number of educational materials available has continued to increase. Interestingly, requests by minority women are quite often not for themselves, but are targeted at partners or family members. During the year 2001, 12,000 individuals visited the patient resource center.

The CoE has added more materials to the web site, including expanded information on smoking cessation and osteoporosis. Materials were created with the idea that they had to be linguistically and culturally appropriate for their respective populations, as well as medically current.

- Osteoporosis Facts: What Asian Women Need to Know
- What Every Woman Should Know About Domestic Violence
- Menopause
- Contraception methods (Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese)

- Building and Keeping Strong Bones (Vietnamese, Mandarin, Spanish)
- Contraception (Mandarin)
- Managed Care Referrals (Amharic, Spanish, Tigrigna)
- Your Clinic Visit (aimed at immigrants new to the Western style of medical care.) (Russian, Spanish, Mandarin)

The Community House Calls Program, directed by Drs. Carey Jackson and Elinor Graham, received the 1998 National Health Care Delivery Award. House Calls coordinates primary care for immigrant and refugee families through bicultural caseworkers. The CoE has worked actively with the program to develop research initiatives aimed at improving cross-cultural communication between providers and patients. The program involves students and residents in community education and clinical care and trains providers in cross-cultural communications.

Haborview Medical Center Women's clinic, (HMC WC) one of the CoE's primary sites, cares for a large population of Somali immigrants and therefore specializes in the care of circumcised women. All providers are skilled at circumcision revision, an outpatient procedure routinely performed on site, and the care of circumcised women who are pregnant. The understanding of cultural issues and coordination of care for this patient population with staff from the Community House Calls Program has made HMC WC the institution of choice in the Seattle area for Somali women. A recent review in 2002 of delivery rates per institution for various immigrant populations in Washington State showed HMC WC provided the majority of care for the Somali immigrant population.

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University of Illinois at Chicago, Phone: 312-413-1924
Internet: www.uic.edu/orgs/womenshealth/index.html

Indiana University School of Medicine, Phone: 317-274-2754
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Magee-Women's Hospital, Phone: 412-641-6003
Internet: www.magee.edu/cenb2.htm

MCP Hahnemann, doing business as Drexel University College of Medicine, Phone: 215-842-6896
Internet: www.mcphu.edu/institutes/wh

University of Michigan, Phone: 734-763-0984
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University of Puerto Rico, Phone: 787-753-0090

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**OFFICE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH
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**NATIONAL CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S
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